



Reclaimed Water Reuse/ Recharge and the Water Code

Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Resource Mitigation

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Reclaimed Water Reuse/ Recharge and the Water Code

1

Statutory
requirements

2

When it's easier to
undertake

3

When it's more
challenging

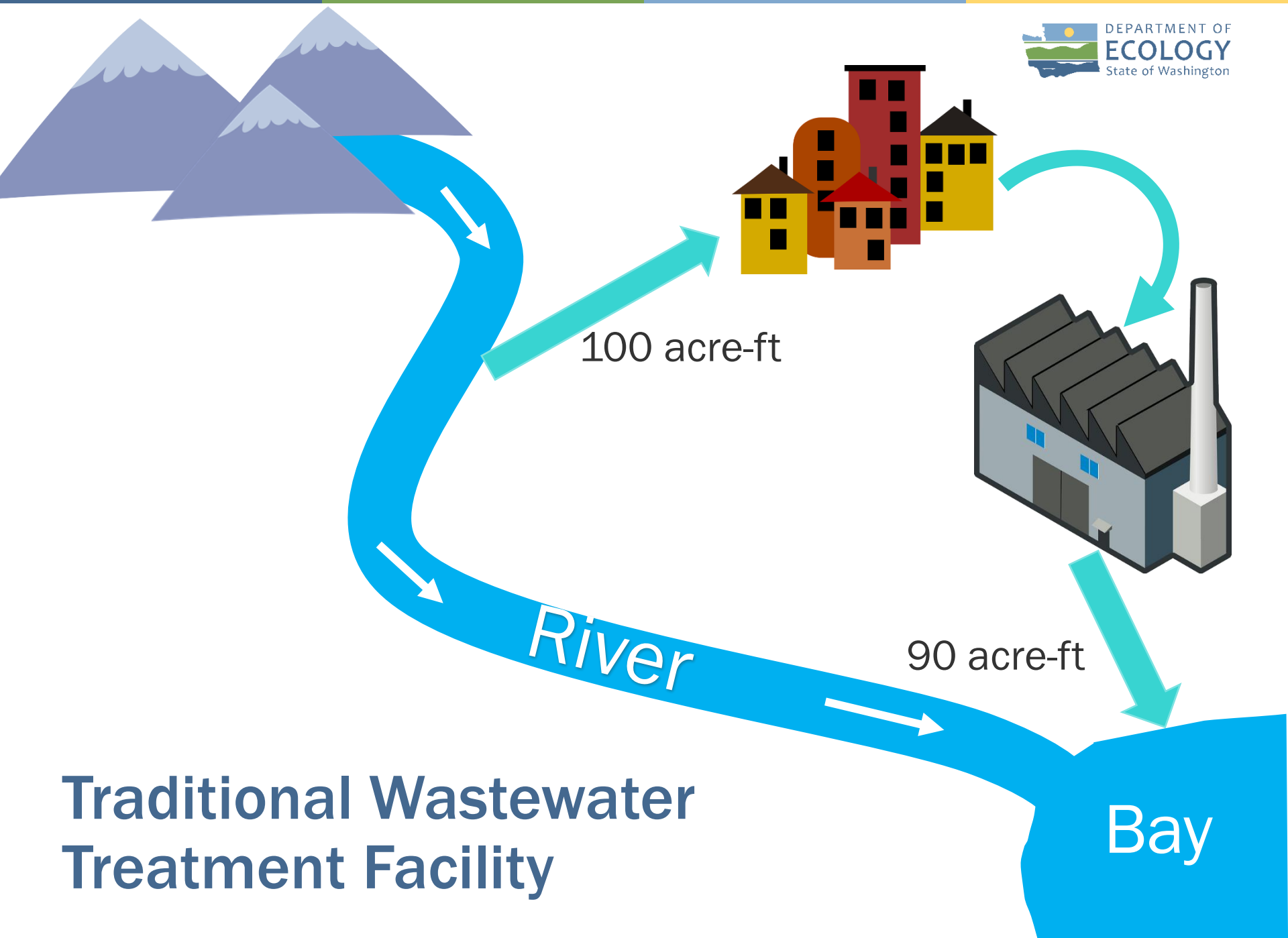
Reclaimed Water Use

ch. 90.46 RCW

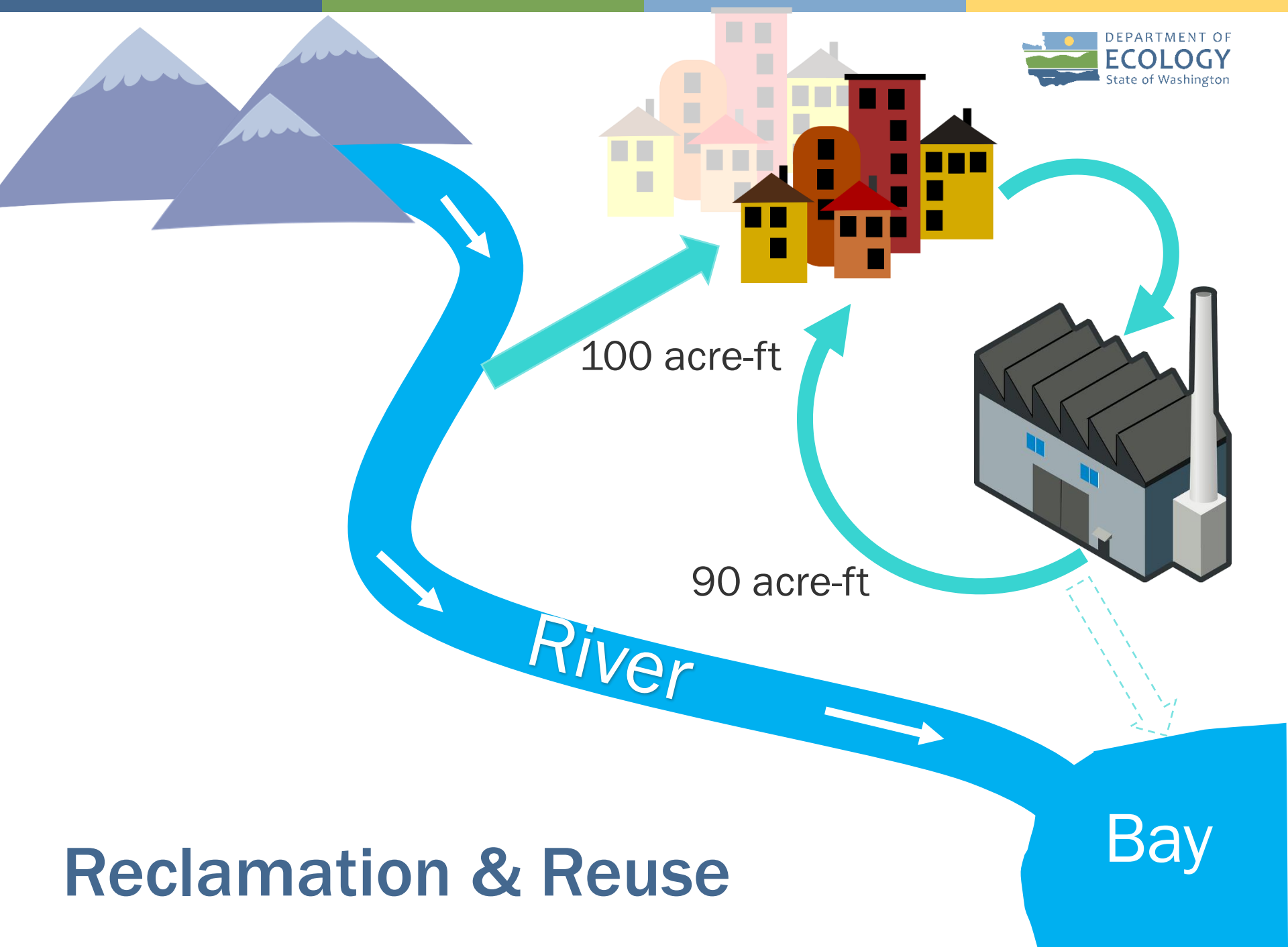
- **RCW 90.46.005:** *...It is the intent of the legislature that the department of ecology and the department of health undertake the necessary steps to encourage the development of water reclamation facilities so that reclaimed water may be made available to help meet the growing water requirements of the state....* (emphasis added)
- **RCW 90.46.015(1):** *The department of ecology shall, in coordination with the department of health, adopt rules for reclaimed water use consistent with this chapter. The rules must address all aspects of reclaimed water use....*

Reclaimed Water Use: ch. 173-219 WAC

- Adopted January 23, 2018
- Addresses all aspects of reclaimed water, including permitting for the generation, distribution, and use of reclaimed water across Washington.
- Applied to all existing and proposed facilities



Traditional Wastewater Treatment Facility

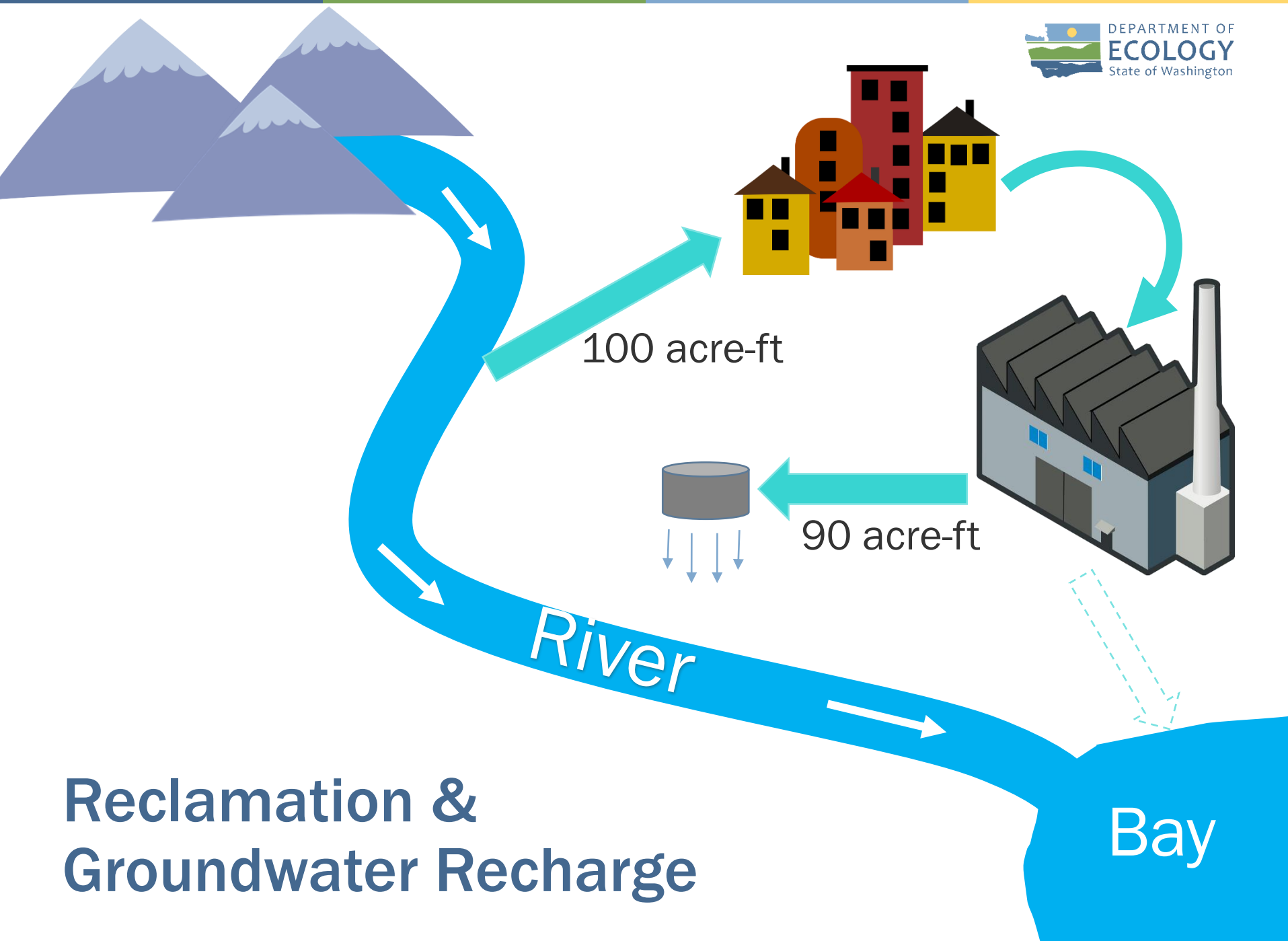


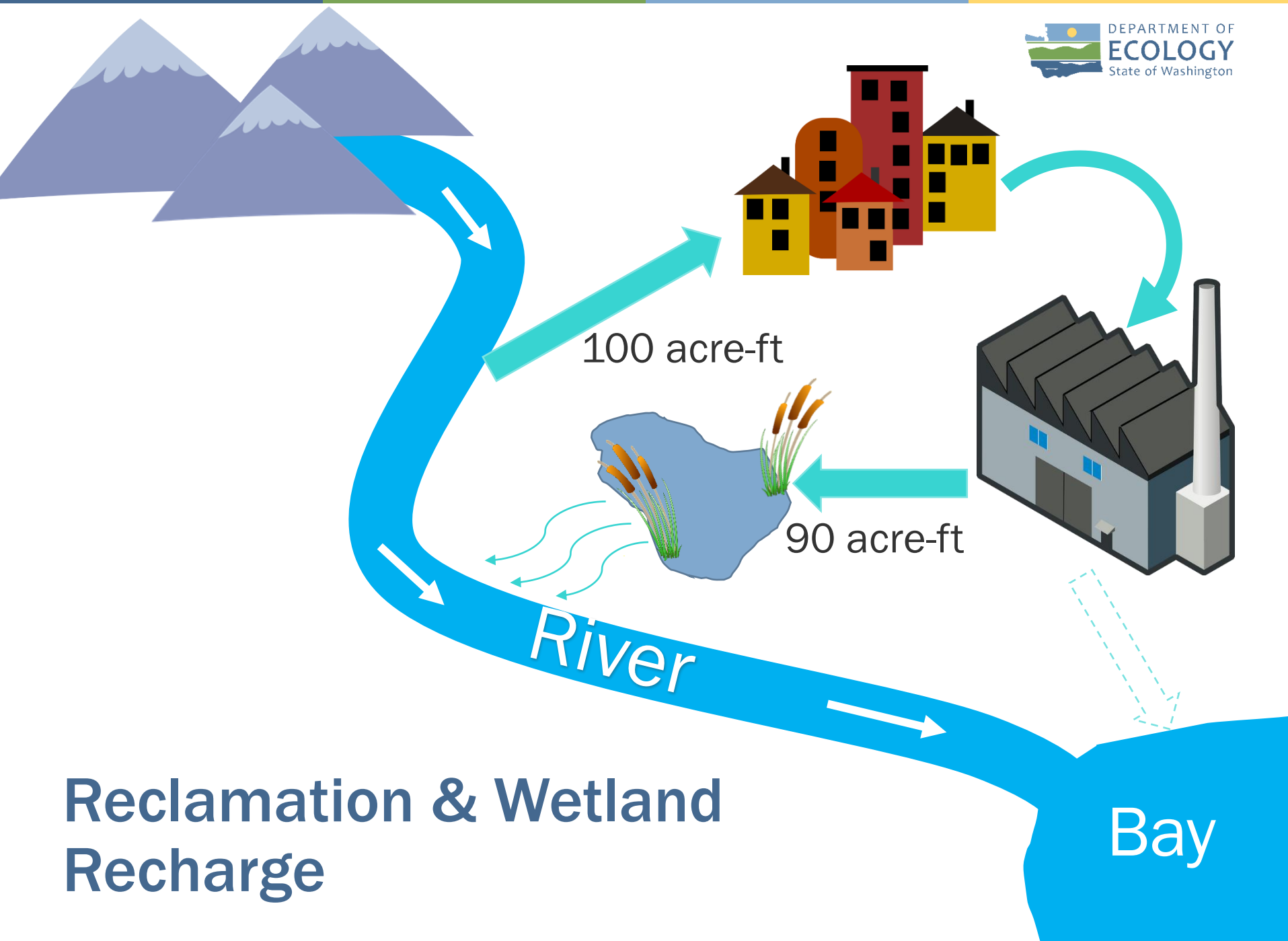
Reclamation & Reuse

Reclaimed Water Use

ch. 90.46 RCW

- RCW 90.46.042. Standards, procedures, and guidelines for direct recharge.
- RCW 90.46.044. Standards, procedures, and guidelines for discharge to wetlands.



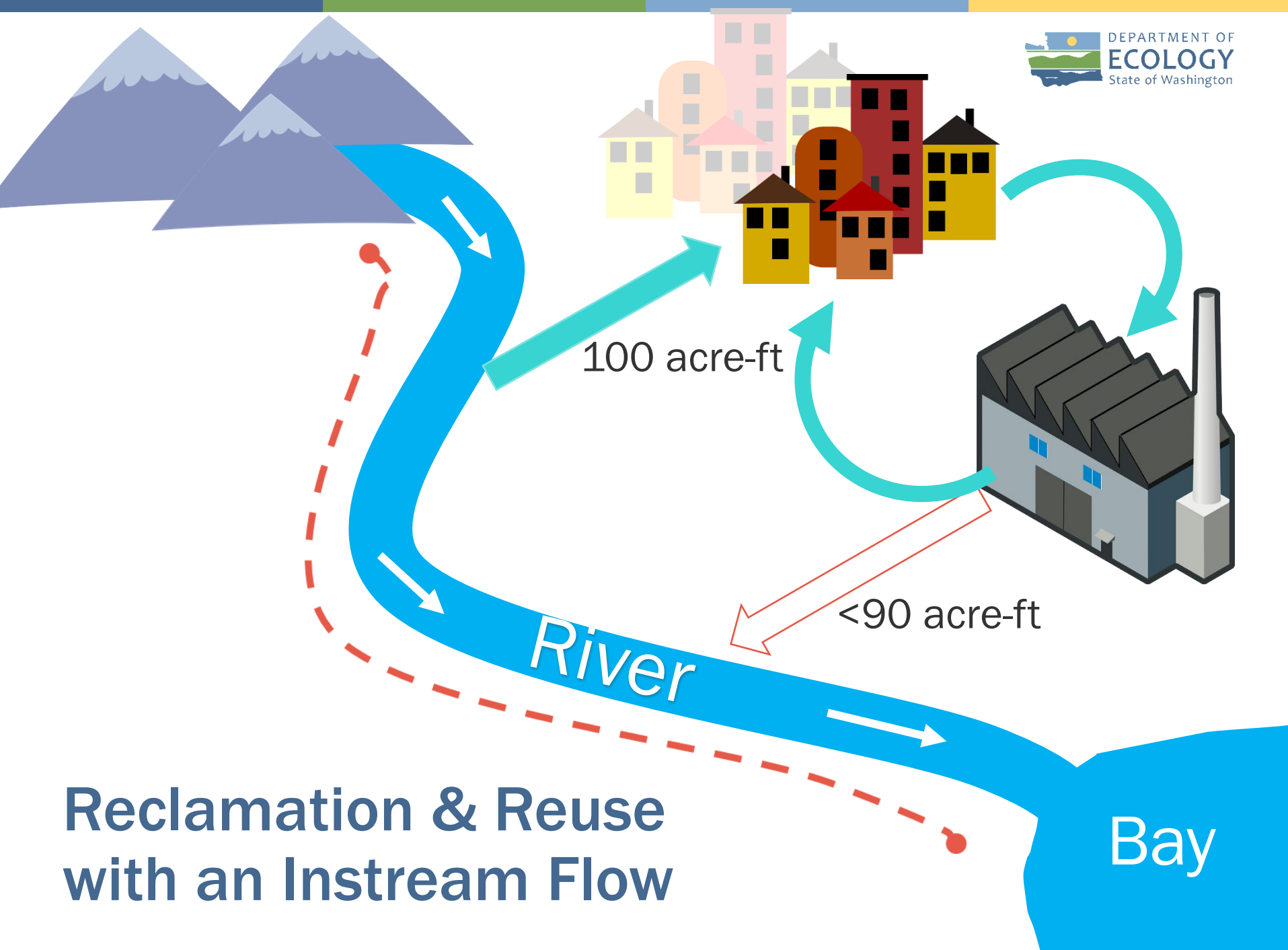


Reclaimed Water Use

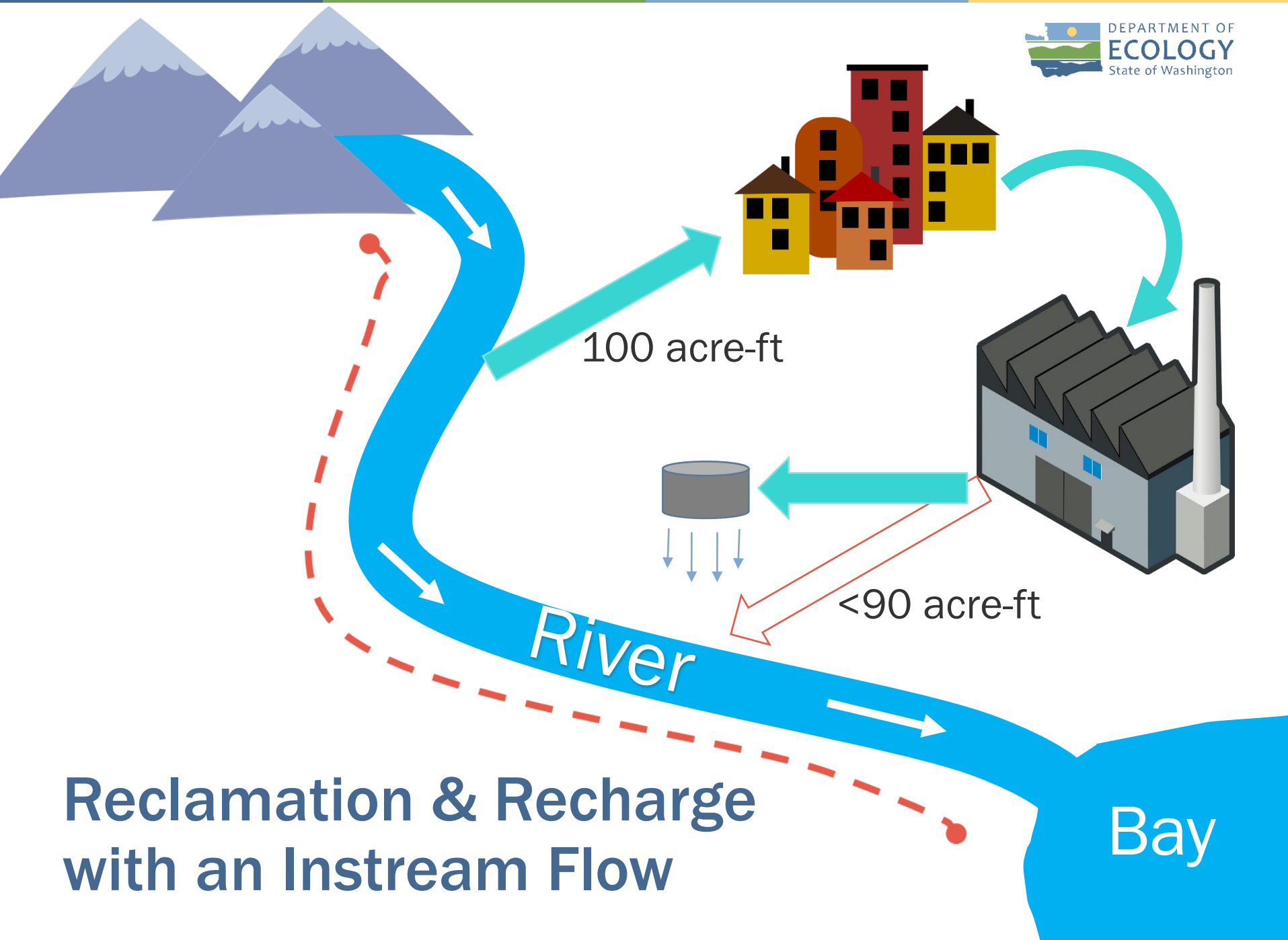
ch. 90.46 RCW

RCW 90.46.130. Impairment of water rights downstream from freshwater discharge points.

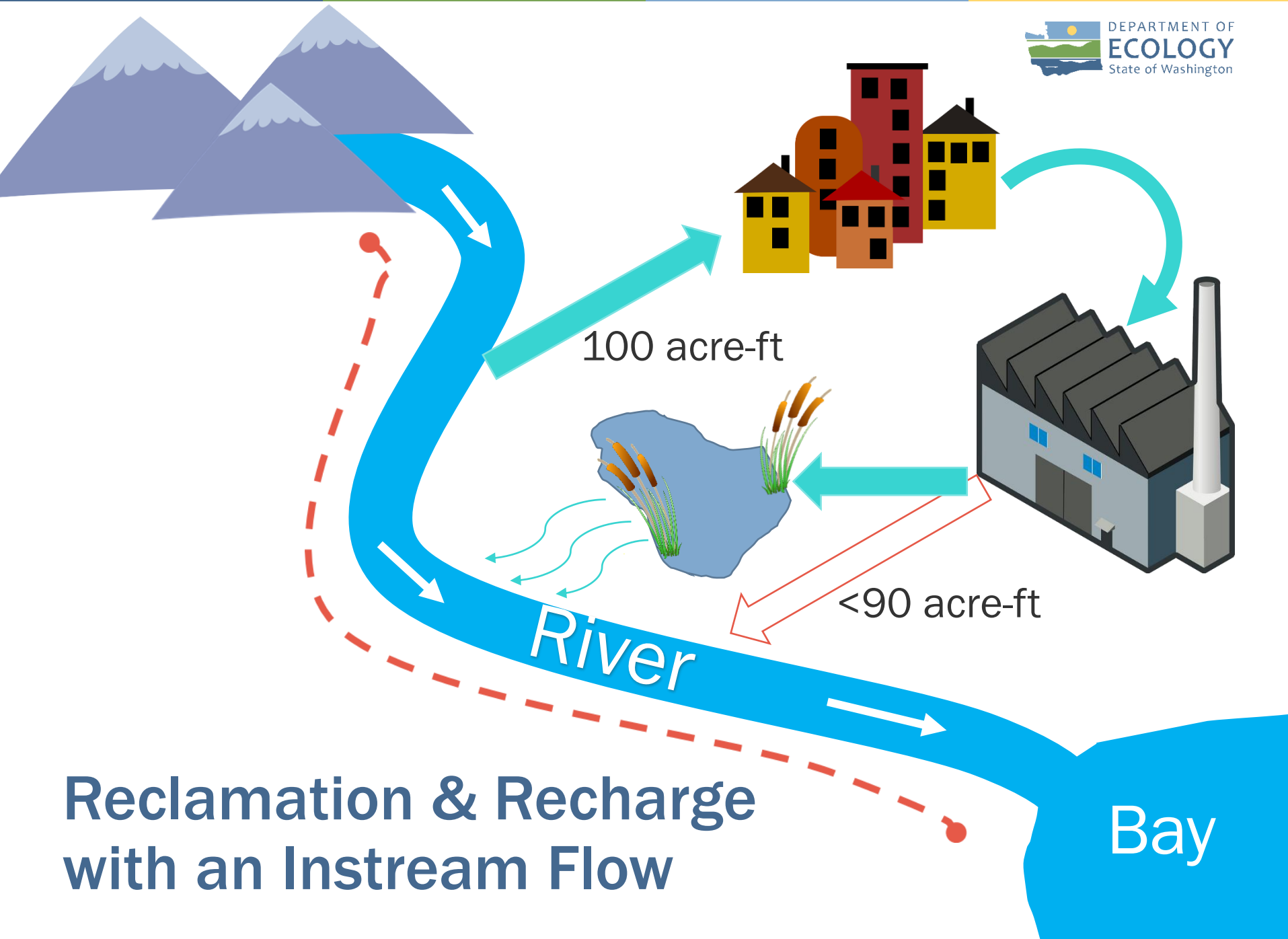
(1) ... facilities that reclaim water under this chapter shall not impair any existing water right downstream from any freshwater discharge points of such facilities unless compensation or mitigation for such impairment is agreed to by the holder of the affected water right.... (emphasis added)



**Reclamation & Reuse
with an Instream Flow**



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Summary

- Ecology supports reclamation and reuse/recharge of water to promote the most efficient and effective use of state water resources.
- Reclamation and reuse/recharge can provide great benefits to the environment, fish/wildlife, and communities.
- In some situations, legal constraints surrounding impairment to instream flows have hampered projects.



Thank you

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